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Therapy Examiners

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

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FILED

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

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IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	
APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE OF:	:	Administrative Action
BRENDA RIDGEWAY	:	
	:	CONSENT ORDER GRANTING
	:	RESTRICTED LICENSURE TO
TO PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL	:	PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL
AND DRUG COUNSELING	:	AND DRUG COUNSELING
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened before the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Committee"), upon review of Ms. Ridgeway's application for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCACD). She has previously been certified as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) since October 20, 2004. The application stated that she had completed a Masters Degree in Human Services from Lincoln University. In her application for certification Ms. Ridgeway advised the Committee that during 2001 she had plead guilty to driving while on the suspended list during a period when she was practicing alcohol and drug counseling.

The applicant appeared pro se before the Committee on March 16, 2006 to discuss her driving history and her qualifications for

licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor. She testified about her successful rehabilitation more than nine years ago and her career as an alcohol and drug counselor. Ms. Ridgeway testified that prior to her rehabilitation, she had plead guilty to three separate offenses of driving while under the influence. Her driver's license is currently suspended and she is not eligible for reinstatement until around 2033. She admitted that she had driven a car in 2001 while her license was suspended and while she was working as an alcohol and drug counselor.

The Committee was troubled that after Ms. Ridgeway's recovery in 1997 and while she was already working in the field as an alcohol and drug counselor, she drove a car while on the suspended list. The Committee was specifically concerned because alcohol and drug counselors must counsel clients not to drive while suspended. Ms. Ridgeway testified that her employer has been advised that she does not have a driver's license. She further testified that she has not driven since 2001, that she has a strong family support system, that her husband drives her everywhere and that she works one block away from her home.

The Committee having reviewed Ms. Ridgeway's application, letters of recommendation and evidence of success in the field; and considering that her work place is one block from her home, that her testimony was credible and honest, that she acknowledges the errors in her past and expresses remorse; the Committee finding that the following disposition of this matter is adequately protective of the public, and other good cause appearing;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 19TH DAY OF June, 2006

ORDERED:

1. The applicant shall be granted a restricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling conditioned upon compliance with the terms of this Consent Order and all requirements for licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor.

2. The applicant shall be precluded from engaging in any independent or private practice for a minimum period of two (2) years from the filing of the within Consent Order and unless and until the Committee issues a subsequent Order granting her an unrestricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling.

3. The applicant shall be precluded from supervising any practice of alcohol and drug counseling, including but not limited to the supervision of certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADCs) or trainees, unless and until the Committee issues a subsequent written order granting her an unrestricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling.

4. The applicant shall be precluded from applying for an unrestricted clinical license as an alcohol and drug counselor for a period of two (2) years from the filing of the within Consent Order.

5. Two years from the filing of this Consent Order, the applicant may submit to the Committee a request for an unrestricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling after demonstrating that she has complied with the conditions of the Consent Order. The applicant shall appear before the Committee, if so requested by the Committee, at which time the burden shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that she is fit and competent to practice without any restrictions and is capable of discharging the functions of a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor,


including supervision of CADCs and interns and engaging in independent or private practice, in a manner consistent with the health, safety and welfare of the public.

6. The applicant shall obey all of the laws of the State of New Jersey, the United States and their political subdivisions as well as all regulations, rules or laws pertaining to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in this State or any other State.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
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Edward Reading, LCADC
Committee Chair

I have read the above order and I understand and agree to abide by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.

 MHS, CADL: License # 37CA00015300
Brenda Ridgeway Certification

I have read the within Order and have been advised that Ms. Ridgeway shall be granted a restricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling. I agree on behalf of South Jersey Healthcare-Bridgeton Division that the employer and I will immediately report any violations of the Consent Order to the Committee in writing.

(Print name) License #
Employer's name
Telephone #
(including area code and extension number)